



Kentucky Talking Book Library Newsletter June 2016

Kudos to our Volunteers

KTBL's wonderful volunteers make it possible for us to record books with a connection to our Commonwealth. To thank them, KTBL hosted a volunteer appreciation luncheon on June 3. The keynote speaker was author, poet, activist, and current Kentucky Poet Laureate George Ella Lyon. Volunteers enjoyed listening to Ms. Lyon read some of her poems and perform a song accompanying herself on the washboard. They had the chance to see and talk with one another over a meal, and were treated to some short videos about the NLS service. Ms. Lyon also recorded the introduction and title poem from her book *Where I'm From*.



Photo captions: (left) George Ella Lyon sitting in front of the microphone in our studio. (right) George Ella strumming a washboard.

Currently there are 33 volunteers working in our studios. Most have been generously donating their time for years, and even decades. Our newest started about 6 months ago, while our most experienced has been with us since our recording program began in the late 70s. Some volunteers are narrators you might have heard, and some are monitors who work with the narrators during recording sessions by operating recording software and performing quality control. Other volunteers are proofreaders who listen to recordings to find any mistakes or background noises that need to be fixed before the books are distributed by mail or download. So far this year they have contributed 714 hours and completed 18 new books. Over the years volunteers have helped produce over 1800 books that would otherwise not be accessible to Talking Book users, and their work is very much appreciated.

Visit this website to hear a sampling of our Kentucky narrators:

<https://soundcloud.com/kytalkingbooklibrary/ktbl-narrator-montage>

One Cartridge, Multiple Books

Some of you may have received Talking Book cartridges that have more than one book on them. These are not multiple titles that were originally recorded together as one book, but several books we have downloaded just for you by special request. If you request a digital book that we do not have in our library collection, we will order it for you by Interlibrary Loan. If you request more than one book that we do not have, we will download the books from BARD and put them all on what we call a temporary cartridge.

For those of you who can see color, these **temporary book cartridges** are light peach and come in a translucent white container. The books on temporary cartridges will not automatically play one after another; you must use your Talking Book player's bookshelf feature. When you insert the cartridge in your player, the first "book" to start playing will be instructions for using the bookshelf. If you need assistance with this feature, you can call us to walk you through it. Because it will take longer to read multiple books, the loan period for temporary book cartridges is 2 months. We have a limited number of them, so please read and return them as soon as possible.

At this point we are only doing this by request on a small scale. However; in the next few years the NLS and Talking Book Libraries will begin to transition from our current method to a **duplication-on-demand** system. This means that instead of keeping copies of every book here in our library and mailing them one at a time, we will download them from BARD and put all the books we send to you that day on one cartridge. This will solve the problem many libraries have with space issues, and make our daily check-in and check-out procedures more efficient.

Staying Active is Good for You

Has it been a while since you logged into BARD and downloaded a book? Last month NLS examined all existing BARD download accounts. **Any account that showed no activity in the past year was suspended.** We have emailed those patrons whose accounts were affected, but you can check by trying to log into your account. If you cannot log in and you DO want to continue to use BARD, call KTBL at 1-800-372-2968 and we will reactivate your account. Just keep in mind that you must download at least one book a year to keep that account active. Call us if you have forgotten your password and we can send you a new temporary one that can be changed to the password of your choice.

Having a suspended BARD account will not affect your account here at KTBL; we will still continue to mail braille or audio books to you. However; if you have neither downloaded nor received a book by mail in the past 6 months, your Talking Book account may be suspended for inactivity. This could be because you have had overdue books for over 6 months, you asked us to hold your service and never asked us to restart it, or you have not requested any books. It could also be because you moved and we were not notified of your new address. If in doubt, call us. We want you to enjoy reading braille or Talking Books, so we need to know if you have any problem affecting your service.

It's Here

WebReads is the name of our database and automated circulation system, and it now has an **online public access catalog**, or OPAC, available for you to check your Talking Book account. (This website is different from the BARD download website.)

Check and update your name, address, or other contact information. See what books and equipment are currently on loan to you. Check your reading history to see what books you have read. Scan your request list for what books you have yet to read. Search the catalog and add books to your request list. You can even write and share reviews of books you have read.

To access your account, first call or email your librarian so she can verify that we have your current email address. She will provide you with your patron ID number, and then trigger the system to send you an email with a temporary password and a link to the WebReads login page. After that, please explore the site to learn how it works.

A Major Award

Speaking of WebReads, KTBL Branch Manager Barbara Penegor was recently awarded a plaque from NLS thanking her and other KTBL staff for testing WebReads. Barbara (and librarians at 3 other libraries) spent several months in the summer and fall of 2014 working through a long list of items to test and report on. Problems had to be documented, corrected, and retested. KTBL became the first NLS library to start using WebReads in October 2014. There were some complications at first, but gradually they were worked out so other libraries could follow. As a result, we now have an improved automation system.

The plaque was presented to Barbara by Vickie Collins, head of the NLS Network Services Section, during a visit to the Kentucky Talking Book Library. The plaque contains this message in both print and braille, "NLS, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress. April 2016. NLS Honors Barbara Penegor and the staff of the Kentucky Talking Book Library with deep appreciation for your commitment and the many devoted hours to the development of Web-READS. Karen Kenniger, NLS Director."

Below is a photo showing left to right: Vickie Collins (NLS), Barbara Penegor (KTBL), and Acting State Librarian Terry Manual. Barbara is holding the plaque.



More Books for You

The National Library Service (NLS) has an agreement with 5 major book publishers to convert their unabridged commercial audiobook titles into Talking Books. The publishers are Hachette, MacMillan, Penguin Random House, Scholastic, and Audible. This means you have faster access to more titles, while reducing costs for NLS.

For example; NLS records 2000 titles a year. The average book takes approximately 3-5 months to produce, while a typical commercial audiobook takes only weeks to convert. In addition to the books NLS will record this year, there will be over 1500 additional titles available courtesy of these 5 publishers.

The only drawback is we don't know whether or not the books recorded by the publishers contain sex, violence, or bad language. Some may be perfectly fine, while others may contain a little or a lot of material some readers find objectionable. We can mark your account so that we do not select **unrated books** for you, but keep in mind this may also eliminate books that do not contain such material. If we run low on the types of books you like, we may start sending you unrated books. If you get a book you don't care for, just return it and we'll send you another.

And More Magazines, Too

The National Library Service has added several new audio magazines to its magazine program. Call KTBL to order a free subscription to any of these, or to request a complete list of the braille and/or audio magazines available. Audio magazines come on digital cartridges and are on loan for a month. Please read and return magazine cartridges as soon as possible; having 2 or more overdue magazines will prevent you from receiving more issues. The new magazines are:

AARP Bulletin and AARP The Magazine (packaged together)

Audubon

Humpty Dumpty Magazine (for ages 3-5)

Missouri Conservationist

National Geographic Traveler

O, the Oprah Magazine

Oklahoma Today

Playboy

Rolling Stone

Seventeen

Smithsonian

Southern Living

Vital Speeches of the Day

Out of This World Books by Tracey Mania, Librarian

The Hugo Award for Best Novel is given every year for excellence in science fiction and fantasy. Notable past winners that are available on digital cartridge or through BARD download include [*Stranger in a Strange Land*](#) by Robert A. Heinlein (DB 55938), [*Dune*](#) by Frank Herbert (DB 44126), and [*American Gods*](#) by Neil Gaiman (DB 52917).

The finalists for the 2016 award were announced in April and all of the books are available on digital cartridge or through BARD download. The winner will be announced in August, so you have time to check them out and decide which one you think should win.

DB 82789. [*Ancillary Mercy*](#) by Ann Leckie

After the events of *Ancillary Sword* (DB 79781), a search of Atheok Station's slums turns up an ancillary that has hidden for three thousand years. Meanwhile, a messenger from the Presger empire arrives, along with Breq's enemy, Anaander Mianaai. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2015.

DB 82604 [*The Cinder Spires: The Aeronaut's Windlass*](#) by Jim Butcher

Captain Grimm commands a merchant airship and sides with Spire Albion in their war with Spire Aurora. After his ship is grounded, Albion offers Grimm a position on a team of agents with a vital mission to the conflict. Meanwhile, an ancient enemy of humanity begins to stir. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2015.

DB 82240 [*The Fifth Season*](#) by N.K. Jemisin

Essun is a woman living in a world ruled by the violent tectonic activity it experiences. She comes home to find her husband has killed her son and kidnapped her daughter, all for the secret ability Essun and her children have to control the Earth. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2015.

DB 83040 [*Seveneves: A Novel*](#) by Neal Stephenson

A catastrophic event forces humanity to band together to survive, though only a handful succeed and flee Earth. Five thousand years later, their descendants number three billion and comprise seven distinct races. They embark on a journey into the unknown, to an alien world--Earth. Some strong language. 2015.

DB 81693 [*Uprooted*](#) by Naomi Novik

A human wizard (known as Dragon) takes young women from the village in payment for protecting them from the evil influence of the Wood. Agnieszka is chosen to serve Dragon, and finds she has an unexpected talent for magic. Based on a Polish fairy

tale. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. 2015. (KTBL Administrative Assistant Devon Stivers says this book is fantastic and the story is similar to Beauty and the Beast.)

Susan's Selections by Susan McGinnis, Librarian

DB 74646 [Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail](#) by Cheryl Strayed

The bestselling 2012 memoir is the inspiring account of author and columnist Cheryl Strayed's solo hike on the 1,100 mile Pacific Crest Trail as she strives to recover from a series of devastating personal losses and conquer her own demons. The story of her struggles and triumphs, and the healing, redemption and self-discovery that she finds along the way is an uplifting, 'feel good' read. Strong language. New York Times Bestseller. Released as a major motion picture in 2014.

DB 73201 [Unfamiliar Fishes](#) by Sarah Vowell

Bestselling author and journalist Sarah Vowell provides an entertaining and informative look at the 19th century Americanization, and ultimate annexation, of the Hawaiian islands. Her writing style is conversational and witty, and her commentary sprinkled with bits of (sometimes scandalous) historical trivia and personal side notes from her research. She never fails to leave me feeling both enlightened and entertained. New York Times Bestseller.

DB 55503 [The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency](#) by Alexander McCall Smith

If you're in the mood for a slow-paced, light-hearted read set in a more exotic locale, the first book in Alexander McCall Smith's charming 'No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency' series is a great place to start. Starring the ingenious and lovable Precious Ramatswe, Botswana's first female detective, this is not your typical mystery series. There's always a case to be solved, but humanity is the central focus of these stories, with an abiding affirmation of all that's good in the world and in the human heart.

DB 81799 [Our Souls at Night](#) by Kent Haruf

This moving short story is bestselling author Kent Haruf's final work, completed just before his death in 2014. One day, 70-year-old widow Addie Moore approaches her neighbor Louis Waters with a bold proposition: She'd like him to come to her house each evening at bedtime, and sleep beside her in the bed. Maybe together they can keep each other company and combat the loneliness of the night. The subsequent relationship that develops between them is sweet, funny, and courageous. At its heart, this is a tale of the universal, and lifelong, need for human connection. New York Times Bestseller. Unrated.



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This newsletter is available in large print, braille, audio, and electronic format. Contact KTBL to request a different format.

Kentucky Talking Book Library
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Free Matter for the Blind
and Physically Handicapped
DMM 703.5